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#### NR08-05 - Corps comments on letter to NOAA

Written by Greg Fuderer  
Friday, 11 April 2008

#### News Release 08-05

US Army Corps Of Engineers  
April 11, 2008 Immediate

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#### Corps comments on letter to NOAA

LOS ANGELES—Col. Thomas Magness IV, commander of the U.S. Army Corps' Los Angeles District provided comments regarding an April 7 letter he wrote to NOAA about a proposed transportation corridor in northern San Diego County. "The Corps is neither a proponent nor an opponent of the project, and we will continue to work with all parties involved to determine what best satisfies the public interest," he said.

Magness wrote the letter in response to a Federal Register Notice announcing that Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agencies had filed an administrative appeal to override a California Coastal Commission objection to the proposed project. The letter, Magness said, was simply an effort to clarify the public record and maximize public confidence in his agency's impartial and independent decision-making role.

Significant among the Corps' responsibilities is to determine which of several proposed alternatives for the transportation corridor meets the project's objectives, yet still results in the least detrimental impact to the environment.

"The intent of my letter was only to make clear that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has not completed its evaluation process," he said. "No final decision has been made on which alternatives are practicable and permissible."

Magness said one of the biggest challenges the Corps faces today is finding the right balance among often conflicting concerns related to our precious aquatic resources. "That's why it is so important to ensure the record is complete and to continue the collaborative effort among all the parties involved as the proposed project moves forward in the permit evaluation process."

Magness acknowledged there are serious traffic concerns that TCA is trying to address. "We are committed to working with TCA, other agencies, and the public to find a solution that alleviates those traffic problems while complying with the Corps permitting program," he said.

Throughout the ongoing review process, the Corps considers the views of the public, government agencies, interest groups and project proponents. Once all sides have been heard from, the agency carefully evaluates the positives and the negatives to determine what will best serve the public interest.



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Los Angeles District

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For further questions, please  
call or email us at...

"The Corps is doing this through an interagency "Collaborative" of federal, state and local agencies and will continue to participate in the Collaborative to move forward in completing the federal review process," Magness said.

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